

Legislators join forces to spare Buckley office

By The Associated Press

AURORA — In a rare show of bipartisanship, all Republicans and Democrats of Colorado's Congressional delegation joined together to save an administrative office at Buckley Air Force base.

The delegation sent a letter to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission on Tuesday to ask that the Defense Finance Accounting Services, Buckley Annex, be removed from a list of installations being considered for closure.

The commission last week added a handful of U.S. military facilities in eight states and the nation's capital to the list of bases that might be shut down or shrunk as part of the Pentagon's base restructuring plan.

Sen. Wayne Allard, along with fellow Republican Reps. Joel

Hefley, Tom Tancredo, Bob Beauprez and Marilyn Musgrave, and Sen. Ken Salazar, along with fellow Democrats Diana DeGette, Mark Udall, and John Salazar, argued the office does not meet the Department of Defense's own requirements for consolidation.

They argued the facility provides the Denver-area with \$150 million in wages and spending, DeGette said in a statement.

"According to the Department of Defense's own study, the folks at the Denver DFAS have proven they're some of the best at what they do. If it's not broke, there's no need to fix it," Beauprez said in a statement. "Keeping the Denver DFAS facility open is in the best interest of our military as well as the Denver-metro area."